

PROJECT NAME: Monitoring Air Quality and the Desert-Montane Connection Using High-Altitude Balloon Platforms

RECIPIENT: Weber State University

LOCATION: Ogden, Utah

PURPOSE: With 93% of all electricity coming from coal power plants in the State of Utah, aerosols are important factors affecting air quality while high-altitude aerosol distribution is important to understanding the climate system as a whole. Funding would be used to deploy four balloon platforms per year for three year and three coordinated flights per year in geographically separated areas to characterize the dust and aerosol distribution. This project will lead to sensor development that could potentially be deployed on much larger scales, as well as a fleet of reusable platforms for near-space research in the State of Utah.

AMOUNT: \$1,045,000